

Docket No.: SON-3401

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Toru Nishi, et al

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD, RECORDING MEDIUM, AND  
PROGRAM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and MPEP 609, applicant through his attorneys and representatives, hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner the references noted on the attached Form PTO-1449, copies of which are enclosed.

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 07-59054 is mentioned on page 2 of the specification. The other references are cited in the International Search Report of applicant's corresponding PCT Application No. PCT/JP2005/012469, a copy of which is enclosed.

It is requested that the Examiner review the reference noted and make such consideration of record.

Dated: March 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	March 21, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Toru Nishi
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	SON-3401

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)					
	BA	JP	07-059054	03-03-1995	NEC Corp.		✓
	BB	JP	11-168703	06-22-1999	St Microelectronics S.r.l		✓
	BC	EP	0 874 523	10-28-1998	St Microelectronics S.r.l		✓
	BD	JP	06-0463211	02-18-1994	Sony Corp.		✓
	BE	JP	2001-078075	03-23-2001	Toshiba Corp.		✓
	BF	JP	2005-148521	06-09-2005	Victor Co of Japan Ltd		✓

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	International Search Report mailed August 16, 2005	
	CB	International Written Opinion mailed August 16, 2005	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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